

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LEBANON: KARAME GOVERNMENT OFF TO GOOD START

FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CABINET PORTFOLIOS YESTERDAY,
LEBANON'S PRIME MINISTER KARAME CONVENED WHAT IS PROBABLY
THE HIGHEST LEVEL GOL/PLO MEETING SINCE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING
TO THE CAIRO AGREEMENT IN 1969:

--KARAME AND ARAFAT AGREED IN THE PRESENCE OF SYRIA'S
KHADDAM TO A SEVEN POINT PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ENFORCE A
CEASEFIRE AND PREVENT FURTHER CLASHES.

--INTERIOR MINISTER, FORMER PRESIDENT CHAMOUN ANNOUNCED
A TOUGH NEW POLICY CALLING FOR SECURITY FORCES TO OPEN
FIRE WITHOUT HESITATION AND WITHOUT REGARD TO THE CON-
SEQUENCES IN THE EVENT OF FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

--KARAME, IN A COMMITMENT TO REASSURE THE JUMBLATTISTS
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AND PHALANGISTS WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTED IN THE NEW
CABINET, ANNOUNCED THAT, FOLLOWING A RESTORATION OF
ORDER, THE PRESENT CABINET WILL BE EXPANDED OR REPLACED
BY A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: KARAME'S EXPEDITIOUS AND DECISIVE ACTION AND CHAMOUN'S TOUGH NEW POLICY PLACE THE GOL ON RECORD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS AS BACKING THE SECURITY FORCES. FORTIFIED WITH THIS AND WITH UNAMBIGUOUS INSTRUCTIONS, IT IS HOPED THAT SECURITY FORCES WILL EXHIBIT GREATER INITIATIVE AND DETERMINATION IN CONFRONTING THREATS TO THE STILL DELICATE PUBLIC ORDER. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 8382, 7/2.

2. UK: REACTION TO HEALEY'S ANTI-INFLATION PROPOSAL

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT TRADE UNION LEADERS HAVE REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER HEALEY'S STATEMENT THAT HMG IS PREPARED TO ENACT A STATUTORY INCOMES POLICY IN THE EVENT THE UNIONS FAIL TO AGREE ON A PLAN TO LIMIT OVER-ALL WAGE INCREASES TO TEN PERCENT.

--TUC SECRETARY GENERAL MURRAY SAID THE UNIONS WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A TIGHTER VOLUNTARY PAY POLICY.

--THE LEFT-WING OF THE LABOR PARTY, THOUGH, DENOUNCED HEALEY AND THE GOVERNMENT FOR BETRAYING ELECTION PROMISES.

--THE CONSERVATIVE SHADOW CABINET, WHILE REPORTEDLY RELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACTED, RESERVED ITS OFFICIAL COMMENT UNTIL FURTHER DETAILS ARE FORTHCOMING (A WHITE PAPER IS PROMISED FOR NEXT WEEK).

EMBASSY COMMENT: ANY STATUTORY WAGE POLICY WILL BE RESISTED TO A GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE BY THE TUC AND AT LEAST PART OF THE LABOR LEFT-WING. THIS RESISTANCE COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE BOTH THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND ENSURE THE FAILURE OF THE STATUTORY POLICY ITSELF. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LONDON 10191, 7/2.
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3. CIVAIR AGREEMENT WITH PERU

AFTER EIGHT MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND AN ELEVENTH HOUR THREAT OF CURTAILMENT OF AIR SERVICE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE US AND PERUVIAN CIVIL AIR SERVICE DELEGATIONS INITIALED AN AD REFERENDUM UNDERSTANDING JUNE 27, WHICH WILL GOVERN CIVAIR RELATIONS FOR THREE YEARS. THE CHIEF OBSTACLE TO AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN PERU'S ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT BRANIFF'S SERVICE TO BUENOS AIRES AND BRAZIL IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT ITS INFANT NATIONAL AIRLINE, AEROPERU. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LIMA 5210, 5/30. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE157321
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O: MORAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750230-0794
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507104/baaaaoiq.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR
To: DIRNSA
JCS DIA IMM
JCS DOD IMM
TREASURY
USCG
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006